

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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**Date:** June 1, 2012

**News Release No.:** 12-20

### **\$5 million in new grants will assist veterans to qualify for high-demand jobs and careers with a future**

**SACRAMENTO** – The state Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today the award of new grants totaling \$5 million to assist over 1,200 veterans to move quickly from military life into high-wage jobs and civilian careers with a future.

“As the men and women of our armed forces get their orders to return home, we should be ready to thank them and honor them with opportunities to smoothly transition into successful and productive civilian careers,” said Pam Harris, Director of the EDD. “This new funding will provide over 1,200 veterans with training and employment services that recognize the skills and experiences of their military service and offer them our well-deserved appreciation for their sacrifice.”

Ten agencies from San Diego to Sutter will receive \$500,000 each to offer services targeted to meet the veterans’ unique needs and occupational goals with an emphasis on those who recently returned to civilian life. The programs will prepare them for careers in a variety of industries, including professional, scientific and technical services; health care; transportation; security; and utility and energy sectors. Beyond education and job placement, veterans will receive mental health and behavioral assistance, and wrap-around services such as referrals for housing, transportation, medical care and substance abuse, job coaching, and case management.

California is home to nearly two million veterans, the largest number in the nation. Current data shows that young veterans are particularly in need of assistance. The 2011 California unemployment rate for veterans in the 20-24 year-old age group was 37.1 percent, which is more than double the 17.6 percent unemployment rate in the same age group who were not veterans.

(more)

Grant recipients include:

Awardees	County	Awards	Contact
Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc.	Los Angeles	\$500,000	Mike Watanabe (323) 295-0262
Inter-City Services, Inc.	Alameda	\$500,000	Mansour Id-Deen (510) 655-3552
Jewish Vocational Service, Los Angeles	Los Angeles	\$500,000	Claudia Finkel (323) 761-8897
North Central Counties Consortium	Sutter	\$500,000	Nancy Crooks (530) 822-7145
Orange County Workforce Investment Board	Orange	\$500,000	Andrew Munoz (714) 480-6500
Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services	Los Angeles	\$500,000	Ernest Roberts (323) 432-3988
Sacramento Employment and Training Agency	Sacramento	\$500,000	William Walker (916) 263-4639
Swords to Plowshares	San Francisco	\$500,000	Dave Lopez (415) 252-4788
United States Veterans Initiative—Long Beach	Los Angeles	\$500,000	Greg McCormack (562) 388-8016
Vietnam Veterans of San Diego	San Diego	\$500,000	Ken Rae (619) 393-2028
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,000,000</b>	

Funding for these programs is drawn from the Governor's discretionary fund and the 25 Percent Dislocated Worker portions of the federal Workforce Investment Act monies under the administrative authority of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's EDD.

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